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Amendments to the Claims**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) An electronic contract associating at least two parties with a shared process comprising:

a first section to specify at least one party, other than the at least two parties, that represents a name space corresponding to a domain of cryptographic keys;

a second section to associate the at least two parties liable under the electronic contract with a public key of a cryptographic key pair from the domain for each of the at least two parties;

a third section to provide at least one of mapping of role names and sub-processes of the shared process, the electronic contract binding the public key of each party with the sub-processes; and

a fourth section to allow each of the at least two parties to digitally sign at least a portion of the electronic contract with a private key of the cryptographic key pair for each of the at least two parties;

a fifth section to specify information identifying at least one of the electronic contract and current revision level; and

a sixth section defining ancillary services used in support of the shared process, the ancillary services including at least one of saving archives relating to use of the shared process by the at least two parties and performing audits relating to use of the shared process by the at least two parties.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The electronic contract of claim 10, wherein the first section specifies a security standard used for unambiguous references to process

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definitions, protocols and names from which syntax and semantics of shared processes are derived.

13. (Original) The electronic contract of claim 10, wherein the second section comprises at least one of a contract identifier, validity period, creation date, and contact information of the at least two parties.

14. (Original) The electronic contact of claim 10, wherein the third section comprises information to specify syntax and semantics of role names.

15. - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The electronic contract of claim 15, wherein the sixth section specifies a party, other than the at least two parties, that provides the ancillary services to the at least two parties as part of the shared process.